

## Department 14: 4-H/FFA Companion Animals

**Pet Rabbit Judging:** #50 Show Arena, Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 10:00 a.m. (by appointment)

**Cavies and Amphibians, Birds and Reptiles Judging:**  
#50 Show Arena, Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 11:30 a.m. (by appointment)

**Cat Judging:** #50 Show Arena, Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 1:00 p.m. (by appointment)

**Rodents and Ferrets Show:** #50 Show Arena, Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 1:30 p.m. (by appointment)

**Superintendent:** Laura Wall

**Assistant Superintendents:** Cassie Binkley, Jo Binkley, Brenda Stepp

**Enrollment:** Youth must be enrolled in the corresponding companion animal project to be eligible to show in the respective class at the Fairfield County Junior Fair Companion Animal Judging. **4-H members cannot share an animal with another family member.**

**Possession Date:** July 1<sup>st</sup> for all companion animals in this department.

**Quality Assurance:** Companion Animal exhibitors are not required to complete Quality Assurance.

**Skillathon:** Companion Animal exhibitors are not required to complete Skillathon. However, a Virtual Cavy Skillathon is available with the Ohio State Fair. Pet Rabbit exhibitors are welcome to participate in the county Rabbit Skillathon or Ohio State Fair Rabbit Skillathons for an educational opportunity.

### Project Record Books:

- 4-H and FFA Record Books are required to be COMPLETED for each project.
- 4-H Members should have a NEW 4-H Record Book each year they take the project.
- 4-H and FFA Records Books will be reviewed at Companion Animal Judging.
  - **For those 4-H rabbit exhibitors who are also taking Market Rabbits and/or Breeding Rabbits and using the same 4-H record book for all rabbit projects, your books will be available for pickup at the OSU Extension Office beginning October 1<sup>st</sup> so that you have them for Pet Rabbit Judging.**

**Entries:** Fair entries are required by 4-H and FFA exhibitors to be eligible to compete at the Fairfield County Junior Fair. 4-H exhibitors must be enrolled in the corresponding 4-H project by enrollment deadline, April 15<sup>th</sup>. Fair entries will open in early August and close at 11:59 p.m. on Friday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025. All entries will be made online in the FairEntry program: <http://go.osu.edu/fairfieldfaireentry>.

- 4-H classes are exhibitor ages as of January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- See Companion Animal Divisions/Classes below for making fair entries.
- Exhibitors are limited to 1 entry per division in this department with the exceptions of:
  - Cavy (limit of 2 entries if planning to bring 2 animals of different breeds or sex).

**Project Judging Scheduling:** The OSU Extension Office will contact youth in September who have made a fair entry in any class in this department to schedule an interview time for project judging.

**Premiums:** Project books will be checked during county project judging. If an exhibitor does not complete a project book and county project judging, he or she will be ineligible to receive a premium in that specie at the county fair for that year. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to complete project books annually for their exhibit.

- Premiums (for all classes): "A" =\$2.00; "B" =\$1.50; "C" =\$0.75

## READ THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY JUNIOR FAIR GENERAL RULES AND HEALTH REGULATIONS

Health papers are not required for rodents, other small creatures, cavies, crossbred and pet rabbits. See cat health requirements below. Note: Potbelly pig projects are not to be brought to the fairgrounds and are judge by interview process only. They are not permitted to exhibit based on current health rules. Additionally, pet goats are not to be brought to the fairgrounds and are judged by interview process only. Exhibitors wishing to show potbellied pigs or pet goats must be enrolled in 230 PetPALS project in a club with a PetPALS advisor to take these projects.

**Pet Rabbits Division:** (4-H Project 228PE) This also includes Mixed Breed or Crossbred Rabbits

### Pet Rabbit Classes:

1. Pet Rabbit (Ages 8-11)
  2. Pet Rabbit (Ages 12-14)
  3. Pet Rabbit (Ages 15-18)
- **Bring to Judging:** One pet, one educational poster display, and project book. Pet rabbit project books must accompany the exhibitor to companion animal project judging.
  - **Housing:** Not housed at the fair and should be brought on show day only. Pet rabbit exhibitors will not be eligible to participate with this rabbit in any other rabbit show classes.
  - **Grade:** Based on cumulative point total composed of project knowledge and records (care of animal, knowledge, handling ability, and project book), interview and educational poster display.

**Amphibians, Birds, and Reptiles Division:** 4-H Project 365.01 Companion Animal Self Determined (reptiles, amphibians) **OR** 4-H Project 220.21 Other Small Creatures (caged birds, hermit crabs, other animals not part of reptiles and amphibians).

**Amphibians, Birds, and Reptiles Classes:**

1. Amphibians, Birds, and Reptiles (Ages 8-13)
  2. Amphibians, Birds, and Reptiles (Ages 14-18)
- **Bring to Judging:** One pet, one educational poster display, and project book.
  - **Housing:** Not housed at the fair and should be brought on show day.
  - **Grade:** Based on cumulative point total composed of project knowledge and records (care of animal, knowledge, handling ability, and project book), interview and educational poster display.

**Cavy Division:** (4-H Project 215)

**Cavy Classes:**

1. Cavy (Ages 8-11)
  2. Cavy (Ages 12-14)
  3. Cavy (Ages 15-18)
- **Bring to Judging:** Consists of one (1) or two (2) animals per class and project book. **If entry consists of 2 animals, animals must be of different breeds or sex.**
  - **Housing:** Not housed at the fair and should be brought on show day.
  - **Grade:** Based on cumulative point total composed of interview and project book (care of animal, knowledge of exhibitor, and project book), animal (quality and condition of animal as compared to breed standards), and showmanship (use of proper showing techniques and handling of animal). Please Note: this section is specific to cavy and not identical to other species grade section.

**Cats Division:** (4-H Projects 216, 217, and 218)

**Cat Classes:**

- |                                |                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Class 1: Cat 1 (Ages 8-11)  | 4. Class 4: Cat 2 |
| 2. Class 2: Cat 1 (Ages 12-14) | 5. Class 5: Cat 3 |
| 3. Class 3: Cat 1 (Ages 15-18) |                   |
- **Bring to Judging:** Cat 1: One cat or one educational poster display, and project book. Cat 2 & 3: One cat, one educational poster display, and project book.
  - **Housing:** Not housed at the fair and should be brought on show day.
  - **Grade:** Based on cumulative point total composed of project knowledge and records (care of animal, knowledge, handling ability, and project book), interview and educational poster display.
  - **Health Papers:** (Must bring to Judging) - Cats exhibited must be a minimum of fifteen (15) weeks of age before the day of show. Kittens less than fifteen (15) weeks old are not permitted on the fairgrounds. All cats participating in the Fairfield County Junior Fair must be immunized against Feline Panleukopenia (FPL), Feline Leukemia (FeLV), and Rabies. All vaccinations must be current through October 31<sup>st</sup> of the current year, and given by a licensed, accredited veterinarian. Proof of vaccinations must be on an official ODA Health Certificate or the current year's Certificate of Vaccination for the Fairfield County Junior Fair Companion Animals, and signed by a licensed, accredited veterinarian.

**Rodents and Ferrets Division:** 4-H Project 220 Pocket Pets (gerbils, hamsters, mice, rats) **OR** 4-H Project 365.01 Companion Animal Self Determined (hedgehogs, ferrets, chinchillas).

**Rodents and Ferrets Classes:**

1. Rodents and Ferrets (Ages 8-13)
  2. Rodents and Ferrets (Ages 14-18)
- **Bring to judging:** One pet, one educational poster display, and project book.
  - **Housing:** Not housed at the fair and should be brought on show day.
  - **Grade:** Based on cumulative point total composed of project knowledge and records (care of animal, knowledge, handling ability, and project book), interview and educational poster display.
  - **Health Papers:** (Ferrets Only and Must Bring to Judging) - Ferrets must be a minimum of twelve (12) weeks old before the day of show and must be vaccinated for rabies and canine distemper. All vaccinations must be current through October 31<sup>st</sup> of the current year and given by a licensed accredited veterinarian. Proof of vaccinations must be on an official ODA Health Certificate or the current year's Certificate of Vaccination for the Fairfield County Junior Fair Companion Animals, and signed by a licensed, accredited veterinarian.

**PetPALS Division: (Project 230)**

**PetPALS Classes:**

1. 4-H PetPALS
- **Bring to Judging:** One pet and project book.
  - **Housing:** Not housed at the fair and should be brought on show day.
  - **Grade:** Based on care of animal, knowledge of exhibitor, handling ability, and project book.
  - **General Information:** This class is for 4-H members in the 4-H PetPALS project and in the appropriate companion animal project with their 4-H PetPALS animal. Youth showing in the 4-H PetPALS class may show the same or different project animal(s) in other classes provided they meet those classes' eligibility requirements. All exhibitors with companion animals passing all nine (9) exercises, plus exhibitor's and animal's appearance and sportsmanship, will receive a gold medal; companion animals passing 6-8 exercises will receive a silver medal; and companion animals passing less than five (5) exercises will receive a bronze medal. This class will follow the Ohio State 4-H Companion Animal Program recommendations. **Youth must be enrolled in BOTH the appropriate companion animal project AND the 4-H PetPALS project number 230 to be eligible to enter the 4-H PetPALS class.**